

SeeYa Connection #9

The quarterly AlfaSeeYas newsletter Editor: Jim Huber

Web Administrators NOTE: The members names and address's will not be published on this site. The full newsletter is individually mailed or e-mailed to each member.

SeeYa Connection!

Quarterly Newsletter for FMCA Chapter

Newsletter #9 - June 2005

Editor - Jim Huber - 317BKP@insightbb.com

Alfa SeeYa Officers

President - Bruce Monte - travelin_man@iname.com (phone 513-310-1735)

Vice President - Norm Duarte - GoldChip1250@aol.com

Secretary - Karen Hugo - KHugo@aol.com

Treasurer - Rosemary Monte - travelin_lady@mail.com

National Director - Tony Monson djnsnow@aol.com

Alt Nat'l Director - Bill Harju - WaHarju@pacbell.net

Address US Mail to:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter 3590 Round Bottom Rd Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

Other Volunteers

Membership Coordinator - Hannah Dubuc - hmdubuc@direcway.com

Historian - Helen Spears - HSpears@hotmail.com

Rally Coordinator - Terry O'Neill - terry.o@prodigy.net or 119 Rainbow Dr PMB #1927

Livingston, TX 77399

EMAIL OR US MAIL? Over the past several months we have received requests

from members to send their SeeYa Connection via **email only**. Starting with the June edition we will send their copy by email. Others will continue to receive their copy by US Mail.

If you were missed in our earlier emailing of this information, please inform our chapter secretary, Karen Hugo, that you too would like an email only copy of the SeeYa Connection. Her email address is KHugo@aol.com. NOTE: You do NOT need to send an e-mail if you want to continue to receive the newsletter via USPS mail.

The printing, collating and posting of over 600 issues of the newsletter is both time consuming and expensive; any effort saved by emailing copies where requested will be of benefit to the chapter and its volunteers.

While we are discussing communication, just one more reminder to keep the AlfaSeeYas aware of any postal address, e-mail address or phone number changes. (See change of address information in this newsletter). Make sure the information you send us is legible. A recent emailing Bruce Monte made to

over 490 members resulted in more than 25 undeliverable pieces; the reasons ranged from incorrect address, full mailbox and spam blockers.

Finally, the SeeYa Connection is quarterly, in late March, June, September and December. If you do not get your copy by the first of the following month please inform our editor and he will send you a copy. (Jim Huber at 317BKP@insightbb.com or 1104 Hampton Rd - Washington, IL 61571-1254)

President's Message Rosemary and I are presently (May 30, 2005) in the Black Hills of South Dakota, on our way to the Alfa Sundancers National Rally in Gillette WY. We look forward to meeting many Alfa friends during the Road Runners pre-rally, and the seven-day National Rally. If you haven't had the opportunity to be part of a Sundancers' National Rally, see if you can fit their 2006 event into your schedule. It will be April 19 thru 26, 2006 at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, CA. This is the same park the AlfaSeeYas use for their Western area winter rally; it is a five star facility. You will not be disappointed.

The officers and volunteers of the AlfaSeeYas are proud to announce that the membership roll has grown to over 640 coaches. We know all cannot be active in the chapter, but hope that the information and articles in this newsletter make you feel a part of this great family. Best of all -- you have the opportunity to join other AlfaSeeYas members at one of our rallies. There is information in this newsletter about a variety of rallies around the country this year and next. We are still looking into a Texas rally in March 2006 for winter Texans and others who can join us. Information for this will be in the September issue of the newsletter. We

are very excited about the AlfaSeeYas 2006 Rally in Branson, MO. This is a complete rally package, very different from any held before. If you are interested, please let us know soon.

Our coaches are complicated machines and need routine maintenance. Owners must check their manuals to see when items are due for service. Unfortunately, this often requires appointments for the transmission, engine and chassis, which usually cannot be handled at the same location. If you check the books that came with your coach, you might find that there is a nearby service location that can handle two or all three. For work on the motorhome you can use an Alfa dealer, any service location, or even mobile techs. Just make sure you get Alfa's approval before work begins (and MBA's if your coach is more than one year old.) All our coaches have coverage past the first year. Originally, the coverage was for years two through five, with no mileage restriction. At around coach # 1100, a 70,000-mile limitation was placed on the coverage. Check your warrantee papers. While on the subject of coverage, you should also be aware that many items in the coach are covered for two or three years and you do not involve MBA for these; take a minute and look at the Equipment List.

Change of Address, Email Address, Phone Number, etc.

For AlfaSeeYa Chapter - send to:

Karen Hugo at 205 Rainbow Dr #10565 Livingston, TX 77399 or to KHugo@aol.com

For Alfa send to:

Customer Service Attn: Cheryl Danley at Alfa Leisure, Inc. 13501 5th St Chino, CA 91710

When do I need to pay my dues?

Each month members whose dues need to be paid will be contacted. If you have questions about your status contact our Membership Coordinator - Hannah Dubuc - hmdubuc@direcway.com

Replacing Caulking

From the Yahoo web site - Last September Brian from Alfa Customer Care wrote in response to a member's inquiry about using mineral spirits to remove caulking.

Mineral Spirits are not a good idea, they can attack the finish. What we do here is:

- 1) Use a nylon scraper to remove most of the caulking. (It will usually pull off in strings)
- 2) Wipe and clean with lemon oil to get rid of the residue.
- 3) Clean with soap and water to remove the lemon oil residue.
- 4) Reseal

Alfa Leisure Web Site (alfaleisure.com).

If you have not reviewed the Alfa Leisure web site recently we suggest you have a look -- especially the section listing Product Information, Service Bulletins, Owner's Manuals and Vendor Manuals. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader! Service Bulletins include information on Appliances, Chassis, Electrical, Exterior, Interior, LP Gas System, Miscellaneous and Plumbing.

For example: I located an article on how a few owners improved the looks of the fiberglass exterior and attached parts that "yellow" with age. (Jim Huber).

What else is new on the web?

Freightliner added a virtual factory tour of their Gaffney, SC production facility. You'll follow the assembly from start to finish. Just go to the home page (www.freightlinerchassis.com), click on the MOTORHOME bar -- when the next screen comes up, click on the Factory Tour bar and follow the prompts on the right side.

WI-FI Hotspots? Go to <http://www.wififreespot.com/rv.html>.

TREASURER'S REPORT As of May 31, 2005, the balance in the AlfaSeeYas treasury is \$14,514.06. On March 17, 2005, at the Tifton pre-rally to the FMCA Perry, Georgia International Convention, an audit committee consisting of the following members was formed: Shirlene Chewning, Bea Christensen, Suzi Habeck and Joann Smith. The committee members were given the FMCA guidelines for conducting an audit. The audit of the financial records of the chapter took place on March 19, 2005. The financial records audited included the following: Treasurer's daily ledger, BB&T bank statements, checkbook, deposit tickets, canceled checks, expense receipts, rally expense reports, and detailed year-end reports. The audit committee made their report and submitted it to Karen Hugo, AlfaSeeYa secretary, for her records. The financial records were found to be "in order", "done with exceptional accuracy and detail" and "conforming with the standards laid out in the FMCA guidelines". The committee

had no recommendations for any changes to the procedures currently being used.

On behalf of the Executive Board, we thank the entire committee for their time and effort in auditing the chapter's financial record

From the FMCA Web Site Emergency Medical Evacuation Program

Effective January 1, 2001, FMCA contracted with MEDEX Assistance Corporation to provide active family and life members with coverage under the MEDEX PLUS Program. This program helps traveling members to effectively manage the complexities and expenses of out-of-area medical and travel emergencies. Members receive this coverage with no sign-up required. Travel can be for business or pleasure at a distance of 100 or more miles from your primary residence. Coverage is provided while traveling throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. MEDEX must approve and coordinate all services. MEDEX provides members with toll-free access (800-527-0218) to travel assistance services and also coordinates and pays approved costs. To read the details go to www.FMCA.com and enter MEDEX in the search box.

As a follow up re: Registering Your Engine, Chassis and other items.

In the last edition we mentioned owner's who had problems with Freightliner as a result of the dealer not sending in the warranty registration to Freightliner. Kathy Reikofski wrote: "Thank you for the article on the pump spring on the Caterpillar engine - I suggest they contact Caterpillar to make sure

their engine registration is complete.

Red Hat Society! - Interested in becoming a member of the "Sassy See Yas"? The AlfaSeeYas Red Hat Chapter was formed in January at Brooksville, FL. and an inauguration luncheon will be held in Brooksville, FL in early 2006. The Queen of Vice and the Countess of the Treasury are planning a "tea" at the September 2005 Gathering in Central Illinois.

The red gloried hand of invitation and welcome is extended to all See Ya ladies. Membership is \$5 yearly - sent to the Countess of the Treasury, Kris Huber, who will send you a membership card by return mail. Kris' Romeo (Jim) will keep us posted by email. Send your check to - Kris Huber 1104 Hampton Rd Washington, IL 61571-1254 Phone 309-444-9351 or 309-635-8369(cell) email bokarcoffee@insightbb.com. Queen Mum Judith is Judie Moore 53 Loxley Crossville, TN 38558

Phone 931-267-2480 (cell) email TNTHISTLE@frontiernet.net and Vice Queen is

Karolyn Lippert 18 Greenbrier Rd, Mackinaw, IL 61755-9372 Phone
309-360-5720 (cell) email klippert43@msn.com

Kingdome - Fine-tuning! Recently I had difficulty getting to the proper satellite (DirecTV) and finally called King Controls. The service tech called me within the hour and was very helpful explaining how to fine-tune the dish. If you get a 'wrong satellite' message and the green light is solid -- touch the ON switch for a brief 1001 count and the dish will seek the next satellite - DO NOT TURN THE UNIT OFF! Keep doing this until it locates the proper satellite (there are nine up there!). (Jim Huber).

When I had a problem getting my Kingdome to lock onto DISH network satellite at 119, a Kingdome tech reminded me that it is important to select the "Check Switch" option (Main Menu, 6,1,1, and then "Check Switch). This will cause the receiver to go through about a 3 minute self-check, which should enable the Kingdome to lock onto the required satellite. (Bruce Monte).

Technical Tips Owners should regularly check the condition of the caulking on the roof. One spot easily missed is the caulking at the edges of the rear fiberglass cap. The cap wraps around both sides and there is caulking located there. Easily missed, it can result in water stained bedroom ceiling.

If the manual shades by the driver and passenger will not stay down, the fix takes about ten minutes. Look at the way the shade is mounted so you can replace it when finished. Remove the unit from the ceiling. Remove the small screws holding the cap at the end with the cord. The reason the shade will not stay down is that a small wire 'spring' that needs to be resting on the sprocket. Move the spring back in place and reassemble the shade. Then re-hang.

Phone Number Change for Atwood I recently attempted to contact Atwood about a water heater question - the number on my Alfa supplied Data Sheet was 815-877-7461. Thanks to Brian at Alfa Care I now have the correct number which is 800-825-4328. I suggest you check your data sheet to make sure you have the correct phone number. (Jim Huber)

RALLYS - RALLYS - RALLYS

September 15 to 18, 2005 AlfaSeeYas Gathering in Illinois Interested in how Caterpillar builds engines? Are you heading from the East Coast to New Mexico for the balloon festival? Once again we will be gathering at Kentuckiana

Campground in Hopedale, IL from Sept 15 to 18, 2005. Two major events are planned: (1) tour of Caterpillar's engine assembly plant in Mossville, IL and (2) Morton, IL Pumpkin Festival. (www.pumpkinincapitol.com) Space is limited to 15 Alfas. Contact Mike and

Karolyn Lippert at Klippert43@msn.com (phone 309-360-5766) or Jim and Kris Huber at 317BKP@insightbb.com (phone 309-444-9351) Cost is \$86 per couple, which includes full hookup for 3 nights. Send your check to Jim and Kris Huber at 1104 Hampton Road, Washington, IL 61571-1254. Deadline is September 1st. **Please note:** The campground will be full because of the Pumpkin Festival. If you want to come early call the campground at (309) 449-3274 -- the Campground does not accept credit cards. Also Note: there is a Caterpillar dealer (your engine) and a Freightliner Oasis Dealer in the area. The New Abraham Lincoln Museum is open in Springfield, IL.

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Rally October 4-8, 2005 Our first stop, the Sandia Casino, is located off I-25 Exit 234 to the east. We will gather in the casino parking lot on Oct. 4th and get together for a buffet dinner at 5pm in the casino and spend the night in their parking lot. Oct. 5th, we will leave and drive to the Balloon RV parking area, only a few miles away, for 3 nights of dry camping.. Oct. 6th, we have a Mexican buffet lunch planned at noon at El Pinto, not far from the balloon area. Oct. 6th & 7th have evening events, an 8pm AfterGlow Fireworks Show. Oct. 8th is our departure date. Admission to Balloon Fiesta Park is \$6.00 fee per person/per event and is not included in the rally cost, that's paid by each individual. For more information, please see www.balloonfiesta.com or www.aibf.org. Please be sure to have empty holding tanks, full water and fuel, when you arrive at the Sandia Casino. Pets are not allowed on the balloon launch field. Additional rules will be passed out at Sandia. If you are interested in balloon rides, Rainbow Ryders require reservations, 800.725.2477 or 505.823.1111. For more information see www.rainbowryders.com. Please contact Terry O'Neill if you have any questions. Terry O'Neill (702) 807-2728 or 119 Rainbow Drive PMB 1927 Livingston, TX 77399-1019

Oct 7 to 10, 2005 AlfaSeeYa In Tucson, AZ Our April Spring Fling in Tucson was so successful that we are going to have a "Welcome Back" rally in Tucson in October. Includes a barbecue on Friday, catered dinner Saturday, potluck on Sunday and continental breakfast each morning. Activities include a presentation by Alfa Leisure, technicians on-site, seminars, free time to meet old friends and make new ones, and rigs to walk through. New for this rally will be western entertainment provided by the Tombstone Vigilantes. The Vigilantes perform regularly in Tombstone and have agreed to put on a special performance for us, at the RV Park. As always, there will be door prizes galore. The cost of the rally is \$125 which includes 4 days and 3 nights of full hookups, the dinners, continental

breakfast (donuts or bagels and fruit), all scheduled activities and entertainment. Come join us in Tucson! For more information, please email John Cohn at: jjcskydive@cox.net (623-536-5322 or (623)-451-8487.

Jan 7 to 10, 2006 Alfa See Ya Pre-Rally at Emerald Desert in Indio, CA FMCA Southwestern Area Pre-Rally at Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert CA. Rally will caravan to the FMCA rally site on January 10. Wagon masters are Dave & Carole Kiesig (trainmaster1@hotmail.com). Rally cost includes three nights full hookups, paved sited, welcome dinner, door prizes, poolside barbeque, round table discussion groups, coach walk. We will also have a pot luck dinner. Sign up for optional golf. All inclusive cost is \$170, paid by November 15. Cost is \$185 after that date.

AlfaSeeYa POST-Rally at Lazy Days February 5 to 8, 2006 FMCA Southeastern Area POST-Rally at Lazy Days Rally Park, Seffner FL. We will arrange for FMCA Brooksville Rally attendees to meet and drive to the FMCA rally and park together. After the Brooksville rally, members will caravan from the FMCA rally site to Lazy Days Rally Park. Wagon masters are Mike & Karol Lippert (klippert43@msn.com). Rally cost includes three nights full hookups, paved sites. Welcome dinner, door prizes, round table discussion groups, coach walk. Pot luck dinner. Sign up for optional golf. All-inclusive cost is \$140, paid by December 1. Cost is \$155 after that date.

AlfaSeeYa Rally at Branson, MO - September 2006

We have been to Branson many times and have always enjoyed the town and all the activities. Recently we spent four days looking for the best of the best in parks, restaurants and shows. We have put together an exciting six night-seven day package that will provide AlfaSeeYas members with a not to be forgotten week of entertainment and fun in September 2006. Sunday, September 10th will start the rally and after parking at a full hookup, 50 amp, level site (not easy to find in Branson!!) you'll enjoy a social hour and catered welcome dinner at the campground. We have arranged for a Hillbilly Party following dinner, just for the AlfaSeeYas. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we have three full days of entertainment and meals. There are nine entertainment venues. Included are Mountain Music Hillbilly Show, Shoji Tabuchi, Jim Stafford, Mickey Gilley, Buck Trent, the Duttons Family Show, the Branson Belle Showboat, School of the Ozarks, winery tour and Ride the Ducks. Also included are eight meals (plus the always spectacular AlfaSeeYas pot luck dinner!) On the three days we are traveling to entertainment, you'll enjoy door to door luxury transportation via modern, air-conditioned motor coaches. No need to worry about the Branson traffic and parking.

As you can see, we have provided some time to relax at the park. On the day of

the potluck dinner we will have round table discussion groups, cards, bingo and more. On one day you will be completely free to sample more of the area. Attendees will receive information about many of the other Branson attractions.

Although September 2006 sounds like a long time away, we must reserve early to insure the best of the best. A \$50 deposit will hold your site. Remaining amount will be due by May 15, 2006. Because of the limitations imposed by various venues, we must limit the number of attendees. When our maximum is reached, we will create a waiting list. Since the entertainment venues are those planned in advance for 2006, if a show is cancelled we will replace it with a similar show.

This is an all-inclusive package. All the shows, entertainment, meals and transportation, plus tax and driver gratuities are included in the \$820 price. If you have any questions please contact Bruce Monte at [or at the AlfaSeeYas number](#) – 513-310-1735. We will be on the west coast for the summer of 2006

Wagon masters are Bruce & Rosemary Monte. [Rally cost includes six nights full hookups, 50](#) amps, paved sites, all activities, meals, shows, and transportation as listed above. A \$50 deposit will hold your site. There are a limited number of sites available for this event.

AlfaSeeYas and FMCA Rally Schedule July 2004 - Oct 2005

Rally Coordinator

Please note that information on a rally can be obtained from the wagon master(s). Checks for all AlfaSeeYas events (unless otherwise noted) should be sent to our Rally Coordinator, Terry O'Neill. Her address is 119 Rainbow Drive, PMB 1927, Livingston TX 77399-1019. Your check MUST be accompanied by the rally application in this newsletter.

Have questions or suggestions for SeeYa Rallies. Contact our Rally Coordinator Terry O'Neill- terry.o@prodigy.net or 119 Rainbow Dr. PMB 1927 Livingston, TX 77399 (702)807-2728.

We hope you have seen information on upcoming FMCA rallies and conventions. We've listed them in your newsletter for your convenience. If you would like to suggest **a local rally (gathering)**, please inform Terry O'Neill. Local rallies are listed in the rally schedule. A group of AlfaSeeYas can get together very easily for a few days during the week, or over a weekend.

Please check the scheduled rallies and add some of them to your schedule. **NOTE: THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES AVAILABLE AT MOST EVENTS.** You can insure a spot by reserving now. Your early reservation FOR

PRE-RALLIES saves you \$15 and lets the Wagon Master know if additional sites are needed. Sometimes it is possible to accommodate more than the number originally planned.

Please note: Members should reserve General Parking for FMCA Rallies by calling FMCA reservations (1-800-543-3622) or using the FMCA web site (www.FMCA.com). Contact information for other rallies is listed.

Note: The cost of the pre-rallies is for two adults in one Alfa motorhome.

NOTE: PLEASE COMPLETE THE RALLY APPLICATION FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO EITHER THE RALLY COORDINATOR OR WAGON MASTERS AS REQUESTED IN THE RALLY DESCRIPTION.

Key:

FMCA - Event sponsored by FMCA

AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally (to FMCA Event) - sponsored by AlfaSeeYas Chapter of FMCA

AlfaSeeYa Rally - Rally sponsored by AlfaSeeYas Chapter of FMCA

AlfaSeeYas Gathering - a local gathering of AlfaSeeYas

July 13 to 16, 2005 - FMCA Northeast Area Rally at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA

Aug 15 to 18, 2005 - FMCA 74th International Convention at North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Minot, ND. .

Sept 14 to 17, 2005 - FMCA Rocky Mountain Area Rally at Winnemucca Events Complex in

Winnemucca, NV

Sept 15 to 18, 2005 AlfaSeeYas Gathering At Kentuckiana Campground in Hopedale, IL (see details in this newsletter).

Sept 27 to 30, 2005 - FMCA South Central Area Rally at Kansas State Fairgrounds in

Hutchinson, KS

Oct 4 to 8, 2005 AlfaSeeYas Rally for International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, NM -

(see information on previous page)

Oct 6 to 9, 2005 - FMCA Eastern Area Rally at Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, DE

Jan 7 to 10, 2006 Alfa See Ya Pre-Rally at Emerald Desert in Indio, CA

Jan 11 to 15 - FMCA Western Area Rally at Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio, CA.